

LYNN NISBET:

# Around Capitol Square

**CLARIFIED** — Governor Kerr Scott thinks the national Democratic party will be smart to nominate President Truman for another term, and he also thinks North Carolina has special reason for supporting the entire Democratic ticket, regardless of who may be nominated for president and vice-president. He is for Truman because he thinks Truman has best chance to lead the party to national victory, and also because he believes in the Truman program, including civil rights, with some limitations on the FEPC item. The governor amplified rather than clarified his position on these points at a press conference Tuesday morning. His statements came in answer to questions about apparent inconsistency in appealing to the South to support the president, in order to retain places of leadership at Washington, when the president and his group have for months been trying to discredit or nullify this same southern leadership.

**SELFISH** — The governor referred to the selfish interest North Carolina may have in retaining top-committee chairmanships in the congress. He mentioned the honor coming to the state by reason of Congressman Doughton heading the powerful ways and means committee, and chairmanships held by other Tarheel representatives, but was especially concerned about possibility of Congressman Cooley being succeeded by a western Republican as chairman of the agriculture committee. He noted that

South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama are seeking larger share of the acreage allotted to flue-cured tobacco, in which North Carolina presently enjoys distinct advantage. Asked if that did not afford basis for resentment and opposition in the other southern states the governor admitted it does, and suggested that is another reason it might be just as well for North Carolinians not to "start anything"

**BROADER** — One reporter asked if that statement meant the issue should be considered wholly from the state's viewpoint. Governor Scott replied that he thought it ought to be much broader than that, but he could see no reason to throw away advantaged now enjoyed. The Democratic party, he said, contains so many minority groups it is extremely difficult to promulgate a national platform upon which all of them can stand. There must be a lot of give and take, each group making some concessions to the others. That is why he thinks the FEPC plank in the 1952 platform will be considerably milder than the one inserted in the 1948 document.

**PRACTICAL** — Governor Scott's approach to the situation is that of the practical politician, which is to get all you can, but take what you can get. He considers chairmanship of the agriculture committee, and the large share of government military installations in North Carolina sufficient reason for this state to stand by the present administration. If that works the disadvantage of other southern states, let those states do the talking and the worrying. Another suggested practical reason for North Carolina to stay with the party is the governor's belief — shared by most observers — that despite resentment and open opposition in some quarters, the South as a whole will give its vote to the Democratic nominee. It has always done that. North Carolina deviated in 1928, but stuck in 1948, both of which years saw southern defection but majority southern loyalty to the name — if not always to the platform — of the Democratic party.

**HANDICAPS** — President Truman certainly, and the Democratic nominee if somebody else probably, faces two heavy handicaps in North Carolina. It is generally conceded that the defection in 1928 was because Al Smith was a Catholic. There is now deep resentment at the Truman appointment of a full-rank ambassador to the Vatican State. Governor Scott has publicly approved that appointment. Another handicap is the firing of Lamar Caudle last week by the president.

## REDS URGED TO ACCEPT PEACE PLAN



IN A NATIONWIDE ADDRESS, President Truman urged Russia to accept the West's proposal for disarmament and world peace. The Chief Executive warned the Soviet that unless she does, the United States will continue building up the free world's defenses. Truman said that under the proposed plan, "all nations would have to lay their cards on the table and keep them there at all times." (International Soundphoto)

**CAUDLE** — Governor Scott declined to comment on the Caudle incident. In answer to a direct question, he said he did not know enough about the case to discuss it. Other prominent North Carolinians and dozens of newspaper editors have not been so reticent. Consensus among these commentators is that the President has said too much or not enough. The president has been quoted as saying he asked for the resignation of the assistant attorney general in charge of tax cases because of Caudle's "outside activities," but that he did not impute any illegal or immoral act to the discharged official; and he did not say what the outside activities were. Published editorials and unpublished conversations among North Carolinians have followed a distinct pattern. Judgment is reserved as to degree of guilt, if any, on part of Mr. Caudle; but on showing made in disclosures of congressional investigations, there is almost unanimous opinion that North Carolina's Caudle was made a scapegoat for that numerous others against whom more definite charges had been proven were retained and promoted.

**BALANCE** — From here and now, it looks like these are the items going onto the balance scales with respect to North Carolina's position in the next presidential nomination and election: For Truman (or some other Democratic nominee): All-out support of Governor Scott and all the prestige he can bring to bear because of his office; multi-million dollars spent for military installations in North Carolina; better

chance to hold advantages in tobacco acreage allotments and other items incident to having vital congressional committee chairmanships; century-old tradition, broken only once or twice, of allegiance to the Democratic party.

Against Truman (or his hand-picked successor for the nomination): Opposition to the civil rights program which runs contrary to southern traditions; violent opposition (call it prejudice if you like) against closer affiliation with the Catholic church; resentment at picking a distinguished North Carolinian for a scapegoat in federal tax scandals; fundamental policy of North Carolinians in preferring to be right than to vote for the winning president; traditional adherence to constitutional concepts of the rights of individuals and states above the bureaucratic control of federal agencies, established by fiat of executive order instead of by authority of elected legislative representatives.

**DUCK LOVER ACTS**  
HAMBURG, Ia. — Authorities here looked for a duck-lover with a Carrie Nation complex. Someone walked down a row of 16 hunters' boats and chopped a hole in the bottom of each with a hatchet.

**TRUCK RIDES HEAVY**  
EAST ST. LOUIS, — Illinois state police thought a truck carrying a power shovel might be a little overweight, so they weighed it. The truck and load weighed 113,400 pounds — 41,000 pounds

over the maximum allowable weight.

**OLD BUSINESS REVIVED**  
BOSTON, — A modern livestock market is to be built on the site of America's first stockyards. It was these Brighton stockyards that supplied Gen. George Washington's army with meat when it was bivouaced in Boston in 1775.

**DOG SHOTS MAN**  
BUTTE, Mont. — Elvin Kinner, 48, was shot by a dog. When Kinner swerved his pickup truck to avoid an oncoming car, his shotgun, which had been propped against the car window, slid to the seat. The dog stepped on the trigger.

**THERE ARE STILL HORSES**  
RICHMOND, Va. — Apparently city fathers here aren't too early city fathers here aren't too days won't return. The city council okayed moving a horse-watering fountain from a busy downtown intersection but stipulated that it be relocated a few blocks away.

**FAIR ENOUGH REQUEST**  
PORTLAND, Me. — A mid-get automobile parked daily near police headquarters bears a sign on the rear which reads: "Hit Someone Your Own Size."

**OLDEST PENSIONER IS 102**  
BOSTON, — On the eve of his 102nd birthday, Sam Wright retired in 1928 after working nearly half a century as a Boston & Maine railroad crossing tender at

Pownal, Vt. Now 102, Wright today is the road's oldest living pensioner.

**YOUTH WILL BE SERVED**  
INDIANAPOLIS, — Firemen answering an alarm found a 13-year-old boy waiting for them. There was no fire, he said, but would the firemen please climb up on a house roof to retrieve his shoe. They obliged but ordered the boy to report to the juvenile aid division for turning in a false alarm.

**PUT IN THEIR PLACES**  
LANSING, Mich. — Two state legislators who played hockey to watch a baseball game got the old schoolmaster treatment from House Speaker Victor A. Knox. "You held up business for 45 minutes," he told the sheepish-looking lawmakers. "Go to your seats and stay there for the rest of today's session." They did.

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